Poor connectivity of mobile phones

1037. SHRI M.V. MY SURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are complaints of poor connectivity of the mobile services provided by MTNL and which has been deteriorating day by day thus losing its clientele to private service providers; and

(b) if so, the action taken to bring the mobile services provided by MTNL at par or better as compared to private service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Cellular mobile services of MTNL meets all the Quality of Service (QoS) parameter specified by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) like Call Drop rates, service access delay, blocked call rate, billing etc. The mobile service of MTNL is quite popular as there has been a substantial growth in its subscriber base during the last three years, as given below:

	31st March, 2004	31st March, 2005	31st March, 2006	Upto 30th June, 2006
Mobile Service Subscribers	3,60,550	8,81,696	19,41,155	21,69,661

However, MTNL is taking various steps and continuous measures to further improve its services as mentioned below:

* There is a proposal to add 30 number of Base Transreceiver Stations (BTS) in Delhi and 60 BTS in Mumbai to further improve the coverage in 2006-07.
* Deploy 40 numbers of indoor solution in Delhi and 100 numbers in Mumbai to improve the in building coverage in 2006-07.
* Mobile Network is continuously optimized for improving the Radio Frequency coverage of the network in general.
* Plans to add 2 million additional lines in Delhi/Mumbai which involves part of the capacity in 3G network in line with the emerging trends.
* Reviewing its tariffs of mobile service from time to time to suit all segment of society and tariffs have been adjudged as quite user friendly.

* Dedicated call centre both at Delhi/Mumbai for assistance to GSM/ CDMA subscribers.

* Providing a large number of value added services to its cellular mobile subscriber like call forwarding, call waiting, Calling Line Indentification, voice mail service, short message service, itemized bill/detailed bill, all India roaming, International roaming, PSTN bill reviewing on SMS, closed user group, service etc.

* Commissioned a new billing solution for the cellular mobile subscriber to address the various options of the subscriber in respect of their bills.

Rural tele-density in Orissa

1038. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa's rural tele-density stands at mearly 0.9 per cent;

(b) whether the State has been left far behind the target of 7 per cent tele-density that should have been achieved by 2005; and

(c) the action of Government to ensure a respectable rural tele-density alongwith using ICT to boost development of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Orissa's rural tele-density was 1.16 per cent as on 31.03.2006.

(b) The overall tele-density of the State was 7.57% as on 31.03.2006.

(c) Following steps have been taken for improving rural tele-density and use of ICT in Orissa:—

(i) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing individual Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 96 commercially unviable Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in Orissa out of total 120 SDCAs in the State, with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).